

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Powell, R. and R.W. Henderson. 1994. *Ialtris agyrtes*.

***Ialtris agyrtes* Schwartz and Rossman**

Ialtris agyrtes Schwartz and Rossman, 1976:76. Type-locality, "Barreras, Azua Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) 28564 (original number ASFS V21430), an adult female collected by a native collector on 25 July 1969 (examined by RWH).

Ialtris agyrtes: SEA/DVS, 1990a:98. *Lapsus*.

• **Content.** This species is monotypic.

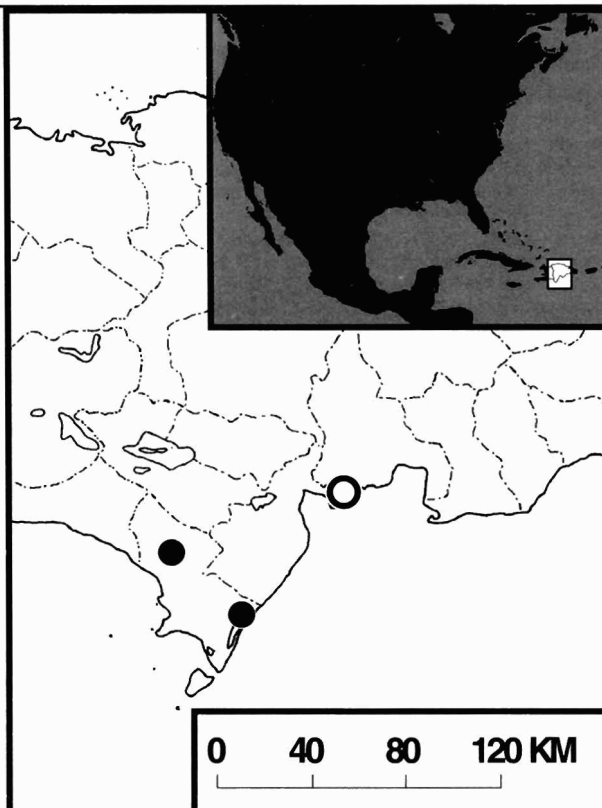
• **Definition.** *Ialtris agyrtes* is a medium-sized colubrid (maximum known SVL of females to 576 mm, males are unknown). Scales are smooth, not elongate, in 19 rows at midbody and with 2 apical pits. Scale counts are 1 preocular (not reaching the frontal), usually 2 postoculars (the lower is smaller), usually 7 supralabials (the 3rd and 4th entering the orbit), and 9 infralabials (the 4th and 5th are largest). The cloacal scute (anal plate) is divided, the nasal entire, the loreal single, and the temporals 1+2. Ventrals range from 160-175 (females) and subcaudals from 57-63 (females). Prominent grooves occur on the enlarged posterior maxillary teeth.

The dorsal ground color ranges from brown to tan. The dorsum is patternless in adults. The head has a conspicuous light supralabial band extending from the angles of the jaw completely around the snout. This band is bordered above by dark brown, less distinctly below. The venter is patternless or with moderate stippling, white anteriorly grading to pale buffy posteriorly and on the underside of the tail. The chin and throat are longitudinally streaked with brown.

The head of juveniles is rich brown. The dorsum is dull tan with 40 vertically elongated bars on each side. The lower three dorsal scale rows on each side are gray and paler than the dorsum. Subcaudals are immaculate pale gray. A postocular light line is present.

• **Diagnosis.** *Ialtris agyrtes* can be distinguished from *I. dorsalis* on the basis of ventral counts (179-192 in *I. dorsalis*, 160-175 in *I. agyrtes*) and the presence of a light supralabial band (absent in *I. dorsalis*); and from *I. parishi* on the basis of the supralabial band extending completely around the snout (stopping at the region of the eye in *I. parishi*).

• **Descriptions.** In addition to the original of Schwartz and Rossman (1976), an excellent description is in Schwartz and



Map. The range of *Ialtris agyrtes* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The scarcity of specimens precludes any indication of an accurate range outline. The type-locality is marked by a large circle, dots mark other known records.

Henderson (1991).

• **Illustrations.** The species is illustrated here for the first time.

• **Distribution.** This snake is known only from the type-locality and from two localities on the Barahona Peninsula; all are in

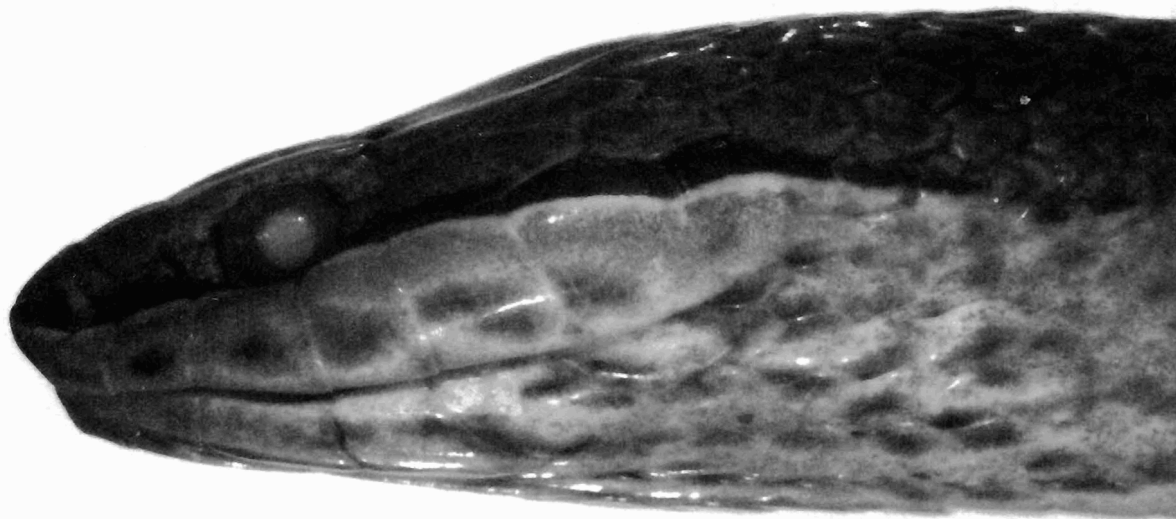


Figure 1. Holotype of *Ialtris agyrtes* (LSU 28564). Photograph by B. Torrealano.

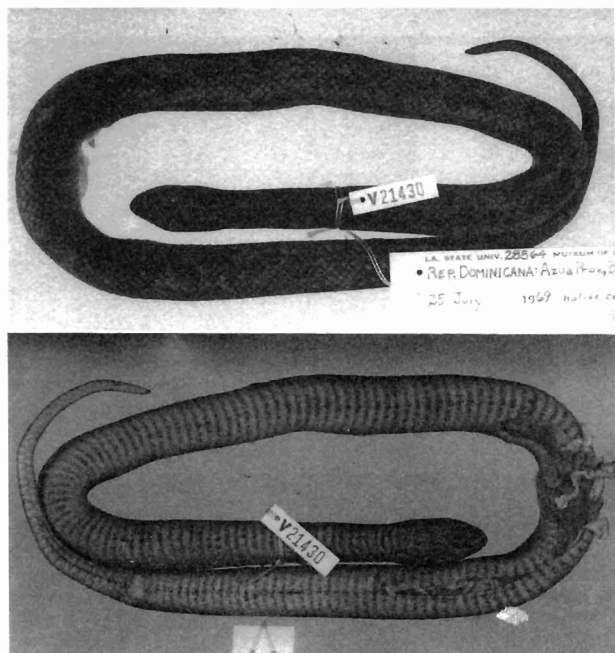


Figure 2. Dorsum (top) and venter of the holotype of *Ialtris agyrtes* (LSU 28564). Photographs by B. Torreano.

xeric forests. The range was illustrated by Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Schwartz and Rossman (1976) found two *Typhlops pusillus* in one specimen. Schwartz (1980) discussed zoogeography. Schwartz and Henderson (1991) summarized information regarding natural history and diet. SEA/DVS (1990a) commented on the rarity and distribution of the species. SEA/DVS (1990b) provided an index of habitats for the species in the Dominican Republic.

The species is included in keys, checklists, and guides by Henderson and Schwartz (1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), and Schwartz et al. (1978).

• **Etymology.** The name *agyrtes* is from the Greek, meaning

“mountebank” or “cheat,” in allusion to the resemblance of this species to *I. parishi*.

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Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.

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